



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

July 9, 1997

Nicholas L. Graf
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Department of Transportation
310 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, N.C. 27601-1442

Re: Western Wake Freeway, Wake County, R-2635,
State Project 6.408006T, ER 97-9328

Dear Mr. Graf:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 1997, transmitting the historic structures survey report by Ed Davis concerning the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

Green Level Historic District (WA 1002-1007), junction of SR 1605 and SR 1600. This district is included on the state study list. The Green Level Historic District is a rural crossroads farming community that includes residential, agricultural, commercial, and institutional buildings and structures dating from the 1880s to the 1940s. It is eligible under Criterion A for agriculture and commerce and Criterion C for architecture. We believe the proposed boundaries are appropriate for this property. Please see our additional comments in the attachment regarding the property's entry.

The following property was determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Pearson House (WA 1039), south side of SR 1160, 1.2 mile east of SR 1163, Apex vicinity. The house's rural setting has been irretrievably altered by the demolition of its gambrel-roofed barn, log tobacco barn, and terracotta tile outbuilding, and the subsequent construction of the Dogwood Ridge Subdivision on property formerly associated with the house. The Pearson House has lost integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Please see our additional comments in the attachment regarding this property.

The report meets our office's guidelines and those of the Secretary of the Interior.

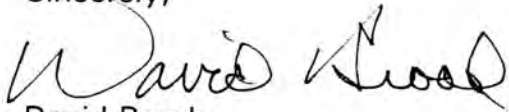


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The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

Sincerely,



David Brook
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DB:slw

Attachment

cc: H. F. Vick
B. Church
Wake County Historic Preservation Commission
Apex Historical Society

bc: File 
Brown/Bevin
County
RF

ATTACHMENT

Green Level Historic District

Please note that citations in the report from National Register Bulletin 50 are actually from National Register Bulletin 15.

When evaluating properties under the National Register criteria, an area of significance must be identified for each criterion. The property's evaluation under Criterion A should have identified which areas of significance relate to the pattern of events for which the property is significant (i.e. commerce and agriculture).

The report's quotation from National Register Bulletin 15, page 13, paragraph 3, applies to a special category of properties with traditional cultural significance which "is derived from the role a property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices." Additional evaluation would be required to identify Green Level as a traditional cultural property.

Pearson House

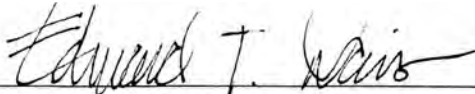
In reviewing the report, we realized that the Pearson House had been determined eligible for the National Register on July 16, 1996, through review of the Dogwood Ridge Subdivision project. We regret our oversight in not notifying the Federal Highway Administration of this determination previously. However, we believe the eligibility of the house has been compromised by the construction of the subdivision, and that the reevaluation by the North Carolina Department of Transportation was warranted.

An Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II (Abridged)

New Location
NC 55 North of Holly Springs to
NC 55 Near the Research Triangle Park
Wake County
TIP No. R-2635
State Project No. 6.408006T

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Ed Davis

April 1997



Principal Investigator

5/13/97

Date



Supervisor, Historic Architectural Resources Section

5/13/97

Date

Introduction

The North Carolina Department (NCDOT) proposes to construct a new facility between NC 55 north of Holly Springs to NC 55 near the research Triangle Park in Wake County. This facility is part of the Western Wake Expressway, one segment of the Raleigh Outer Loop. The required right-of-way for each of the alternatives under consideration is approximately 300 feet.

On September 23, 1997, Mr. David Brook of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) corresponded with Mr. Nicholas Graf of the Federal Highway Administration concerning historic architectural resources located within the area of potential effect (APE). In this letter, Mr. Brook requested that nine properties be evaluated. Six properties, the G.H. Baucom House (WA 767), the Carpenter Historic District (WA 787), the Saint Mary AME Church (WA 843), the Apex Colored School (WA 844), the Apex Historic District and Boundary Increase (WA 4047 and WA 4097) and the Green Hope School Buildings (WA 979) lie outside the APE. The remaining properties are evaluated herein. It should be noted that the Green Level Baptist Church is located within the proposed boundaries of the Green Level Historic District. It is, therefore, treated as a contributing structure and has not been evaluated individually. Each of these properties is evaluated in this report within the context developed by Kelly A. Lally in her publication, The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina. The Green Hill Historic District has been found eligible for the National Register.

Historic and Architectural Contexts of Wake County

**adapted from the recent National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca 1770 - 1941)," by Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson and The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina (1994) by Kelly Lally.*

Historic Context

English yeoman and planter families, along with a few Scotch-Irish, first settled the Wake County area in the 1730s. Wake County was created in 1771 from Johnston, Cumberland and Orange Counties and was chosen for the North Carolina capital in 1792. Subsistence farming provided the basis for rural Wake County's economy until the 1840s and 1850s, when railroad construction in the area encouraged some expansion into the commercial production of cotton and tobacco.

Cotton production dominated the Wake County economy after the Civil War, but declining cotton prices forced many farmers into debt and tenancy. The development of bright leaf tobacco in the 1880s as an attractive cash crop, along with the expansion of the railroad, brought some growth and prosperity for the farmers of rural Wake County, but most of Wake County's small farms still operated under the tenant system.

The increasing development of industry, mainly textile mills, in the 1890s provided an alternative for the small tenant farmer. The result was growing industrialization and urbanization around Raleigh, and further growth for smaller towns such as Fuquay Springs, Apex, and Wendell that had already experienced growth as a direct result of the expansion of the railroads and tobacco production. Cotton and tobacco production remained lucrative for farmers after World War I, but an agricultural depression in the 1920s, followed by the Great Depression of the 1930s, changed forever the character of rural Wake County. "By the time of World War II, a county that was once predominantly rural and agricultural was becoming increasingly urban and oriented toward commercial and industrial interests" (Lally, p. 137).

Architectural Context

The grand eighteenth-century Neoclassical or palatial nineteenth-century Greek Revival plantation houses found in some areas of eastern North Carolina are not representative of the residences of most of Wake County's early population. Log, and later frame, construction was the most popular method of building in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although few early examples survive today. The houses of most of the early (and indeed later) Wake County citizenry were traditional in plan and conservative in ornamentation.

Most of these early houses had either one room or two rooms, and were either one, one-and-one-half, or two-stories tall. "Porches, which shaded houses from the summer heat and often served as outdoor living spaces, were built as integral parts of even the smallest dwellings. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses with engaged or semi-engaged porches and rear sheds are often referred to as "coastal cottages" due to their proliferation in eastern North Carolina. Like most early dwellings, these houses are generally one to one and a half stories tall with small enclosed interior stairways leading to upper lofts" (Lally, p. 30). The "coastal cottage" proved popular with early nineteenth-century farmers, but relatively few survive today.

Lally and Johnson noted two general trends in the architecture of this period. First, most houses in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries grew either from earlier one or two-room structures, or were newly built, with the owners often using their old quarters as outbuildings. This was not restricted to the smaller planter or farmers of Wake County, however; some of the wealthiest eighteenth-century planters began their homesteads with small two-room hall-parlor plan houses (albeit with well-executed Neoclassical or Federal trim). Second, traditional houses were often updated periodically in the current style, or to add modern conveniences. "Many houses show the progression of styles with additions, new porches and windows, and trim. In the late nineteenth century, many Greek Revival porticoes were replaced with full-facade or wrap-around porches decorated with sawn and turned ornament. Many of these were replaced, in turn, with Craftsman- or Colonial Revival-style porches in the twentieth century" (Lally and Johnson, p. F-124).

The application of current stylistic details to traditional building plans remained a constant characteristic of Wake County domestic architecture until the turn of the twentieth century. Post-Civil War builders benefited from advancements in lumber-milling technology and from the extension of the railroad, which made commercial millwork increasingly available to the average builder. For much of the nineteenth century builders dressed up the single-pile hall-parlor house (and later the single- or double-pile central passage house) in different styles ranging from the Greek Revival to the Italianate to the Queen Anne.

The invention of balloon frame construction after the Civil War led to the development of different house types. The addition of a central gable to the popular two-story single-pile house represented the biggest change in North Carolina domestic architecture before World War I, and it became the most popular house plan in Wake County by the turn of the twentieth century. Another new house type was the bungalow. Builders dressed up these houses with Colonial Revival trim, and with Craftsman details after 1910. House magazines and pattern books help make these new houses popular across the county, and the availability of commercial millwork spurred their construction: any homeowner could now copy almost any style he wanted with the application of inexpensive wood trim and finishes.

The farm complex remained the standard property type for rural Wake County until World War II, and often the only change to be found between antebellum farms and those established around the turn of the twentieth century was the style of the principle dwellings. After the Civil War most farm dwellings retained their traditional plans, and featured simple Greek Revival, Victorian, or Colonial Revival detailing. Craftsman-style details became more popular in the early twentieth century, and were applied to more traditional farm dwellings as well as the newly fashionable bungalow and foursquare house types. Tenant houses on these farm complexes were usually built on a simple plan and finished in a plain fashion. The simple gable-front house, and the side-gable house with rear ell extension, were commonly used for tenant housing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Today many of these farm complexes and small rural communities, once so numerous in Wake County, have largely disappeared in the face of intense developmental pressure. A windshield survey of southwest Wake County revealed only a few intact turn-of-the-century farmsteads and small rural communities.

Properties Eligible for the National Register:

**Green Level Historic District
(WA 1006)**

Green Level Historic District

Location: Junction of SR 1605 and SR 1600.

Previous Information: Green Level is located on an early nineteenth-century stagecoach road which connected Raleigh to Pittsboro. The community is purported to have been named "Green Level" by an Indian who described the land as particularly green and level.

"A post office was established at Green Level in the 1840's; and in the post-Civil War period a Masonic lodge (1867) and a Missionary Baptist church (1870) were organized. The surrounding vicinity also had seven stores, two grist- and sawmills, and a school by the 1870s. In the early 1920s a rural sociological study of Wake County ranked Green Level as a farm-operator village, since all its inhabitants were involved in either farming or mercantile operations. The area's close proximity to Cary and Research Triangle Park has resulted in significant population growth in recent years. The town of Cary has annexed much of the rolling pasture- and farmland around Green Level, bringing further changes to the traditional landscape." (Lally, p. 340).

Within the village of Green Level are located a number of architecturally significant structures. Of particular interest are the Green Level Baptist Church (WA 1005), and the Alious Mills farm and store (WA 1004).

"Built around 1904, the Green Level Baptist Church is one of the best-preserved examples of rural church architecture in Wake County. The frame, cruciform building features typical vernacular Gothic Revival details, such as pointed-arch windows and vents and a tower at the central bay, as well as other notable decorative elements including curved rafter ends and small circular windows in each of the side gables. Inside, the church follows an auditorium plan; the floor slopes to provide a clear view of the pulpit from all sections of the building. The interior walls are sheathed with a mixture of horizontal, vertical, and diagonal tongue-and-groove boards. A two-story brick educational wing was added to the southwest side of the building in 1975." (Lally, pp. 340-341). The Green Level Baptist Church was placed on the State Study List on July 13, 1995.

"Alious Mills built a store and house around 1916 in the cross-roads community of Green Level. Before this time, Mills worked for Vic Council, owner of another general merchandise store in the community. The Mills store, which exhibits the traditional gable-front form of rural commercial buildings, is the only surviving early twentieth-century store in Green Level. The two-story frame building is

clad in plain weatherboards and has one-story wide wings and a later rear addition. Both the west and south elevations feature double doors.

The two-story L-plan house on the lot adjacent to the store is situated in a grove of mature hardwood trees. The prominent dwelling is topped by a high hip roof and, like many houses of the same era, features interior brick chimneys, large one-over-one sash windows, and a wraparound porch with Doric supports. Beside and behind the house are several frame out-buildings; some are recent, but most are contemporary with the dwelling and store. These include a covered well; a corn-crib; a feed barn; a tobacco strip room; and a combination smokehouse, chicken house, and woodshed" (Lally, p. 341).

Also located in Green Level is the Betty and Beatrice Council House (WA 1002). This frame house, constructed circa 1905, is two-stories, three bays across and two bays wide. A one-story porch with a modified hip-roof supported by simple wooden posts is located across the front of the house. Corbelled brick chimneys are located at each gable end. The sash on this, the original portion of the house, is two-over-two. An L-shaped one-story wing is attached to the rear of the house. This section of the house appears to have been added as two sections.

The Vic Council rental house (WA 1003) was constructed by Mr. Council circa 1900 as rental property. This one-story frame house is three bays across and two bays deep. A rear ell is located off the back of the structure. The sash is two-over-two. The original front porch has been removed and the entire interior of the house "renovated". Mr. Council also owned a large store to the south of the house which is no longer extant. Alious Mills, whose own store and house was previously discussed, lived in this house and managed the Council store prior to beginning his own mercantile operation.

Mr. Vic Council's residence (WA 1007) was constructed circa 1890. The frame, one-story house was five bays across and two bays deep. The rear ell is five bays across. The gable ends of the house feature decorative ventilators and patterned shingles. The original front porch of the house has been enclosed and the original sash has been replaced.

Additional structures over fifty years of age in the Green Level community include a circa 1930's house with numerous outbuildings (including a stable) located just south of the Green Level Baptist Church and the Green Level Community Store.

Evaluation. The Green Level Community possesses a concentration of buildings united historically by plan and physical development. It is eligible for the

National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event) and Criterion C (Design/Construction) as a rural, historic district.

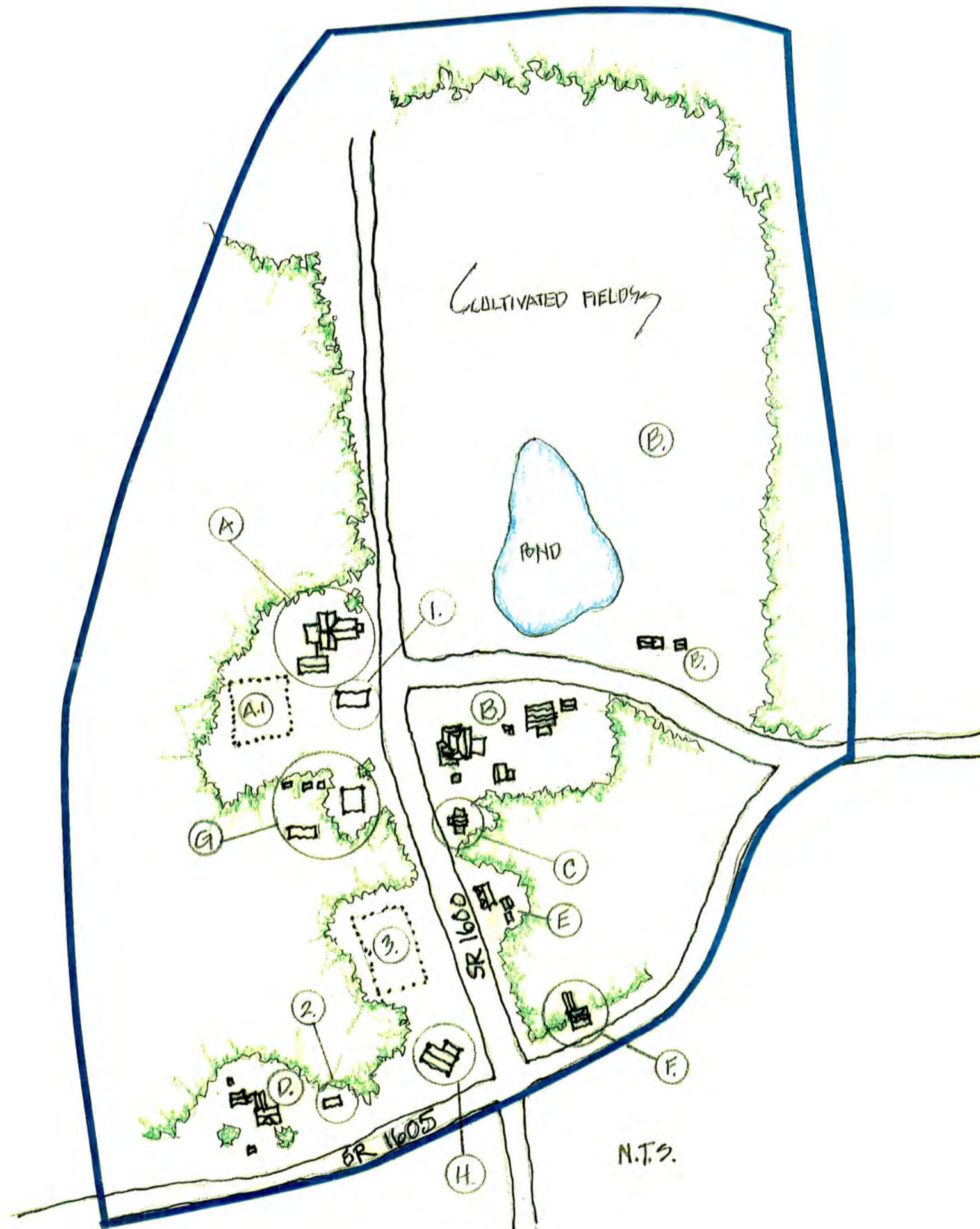
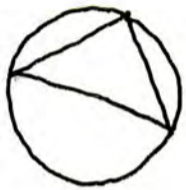
The National Register Bulletin 50, states that under Criterion A, "A rural community can be eligible whose organization, buildings, or patterns of land use reflect the cultural traditions valued by its long-term residents" (page 13, paragraph 3). Green Level was organized and developed as a small rural village whose church and stores provided social centers and services to the surrounding farming community. The patterns of land use, which over the past one hundred years have centered on the cultivation of tobacco, are largely unchanged. Portions of the surrounding farm land has been annexed by the City of Cary. As a result of their desire to maintain the unique character of Green Level, the residents of the community are currently organizing a movement to incorporate the town.

Under Criterion C, a district may be eligible for the National Register if it "Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction" (Bulletin 50, page 17, paragraph 2). The community of Green Level possesses a significant concentration of buildings associated with farming and related support facilities in rural Wake County between the years 1880 and 1947. Moreover, rural farming communities -- once common throughout the county -- are increasingly disappearing due to encroaching suburban development.

Proposed National Register Boundary

The proposed National Register boundary for the Green Level Historic District is outlined on the accompanying map of the community, and has been drawn to include both the contributing buildings and the surrounding, cultivated fields. The south side of the boundary follows the edge of right of way of Green Level Road. The west, north and east boundaries follow the tree lines at the edge of existing fields.

Green Level Rural Historic District



KEY

- A. Green Level Baptist Church WA 1005
- A.1 Cemetery
- B. Alious Mills House and Outbuildings WA 1004
- C. Alious Mills Store WA 1004
- D. Beatrice and Betty Council Residence WA 1002
- E. Vic Council Rental Cottage WA 1003
- F. Vic Council House WA 1007
- G. 1930's House and Outbuildings
- H. Green Level Community Store

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

- 1. Modern Masonic Building
- 2. Mobile Home
- 3. Modern Nursery

Boundary



Green Level Baptist Church



Green Level Baptist Church



Green Level Baptist Church



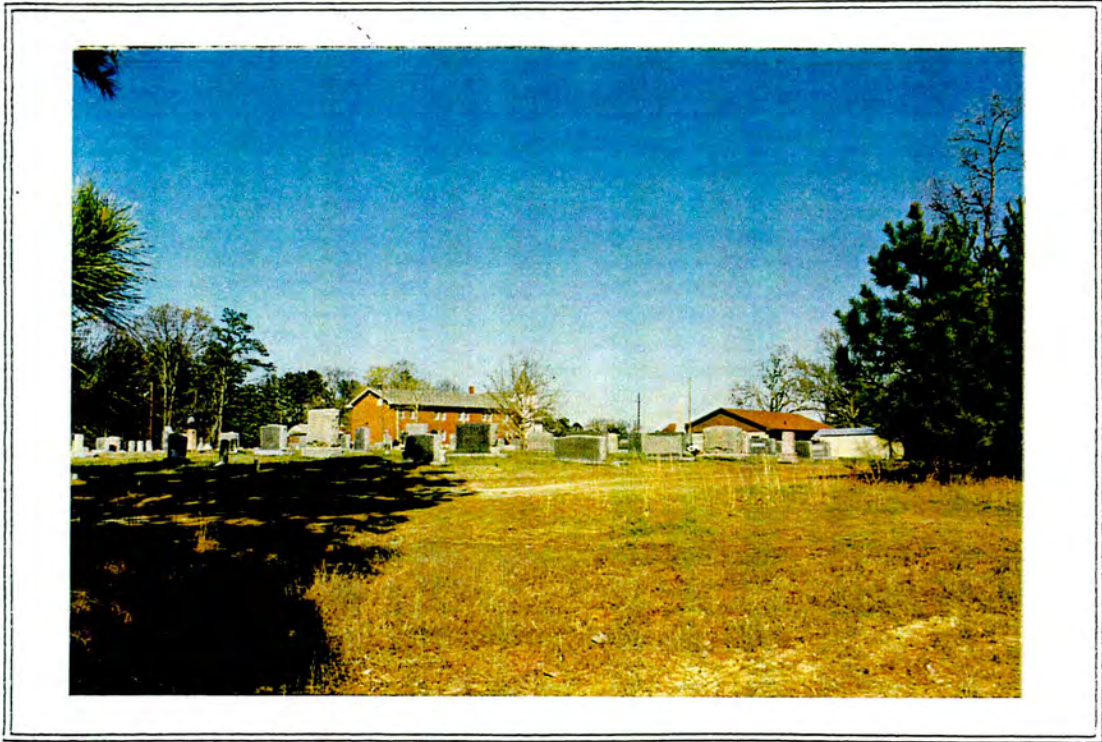
Green Level Baptist Church Cemetary



Green Level Baptist Church



Green Level Baptist Church



Green Level Baptist Church Cemetary



Masonic Hall adjacent to church
(Noncontributing structure)



Alious Mills House and Farm



Alious Mills House and Farm



Alious Mills House and Farm



Alious Mills House and Farm
View from SR 1615



Alious Mills Farm
Outbuildings located on East side of SR 1615



Alious Mills Store



Alious Mills Store



Beatrice and Betty Council House



Beatrice and Betty Council House



Beatrice and Betty Council House



Beatrice and Betty Council House



Vic Council Rental House



Vic Council House



Vic Council House



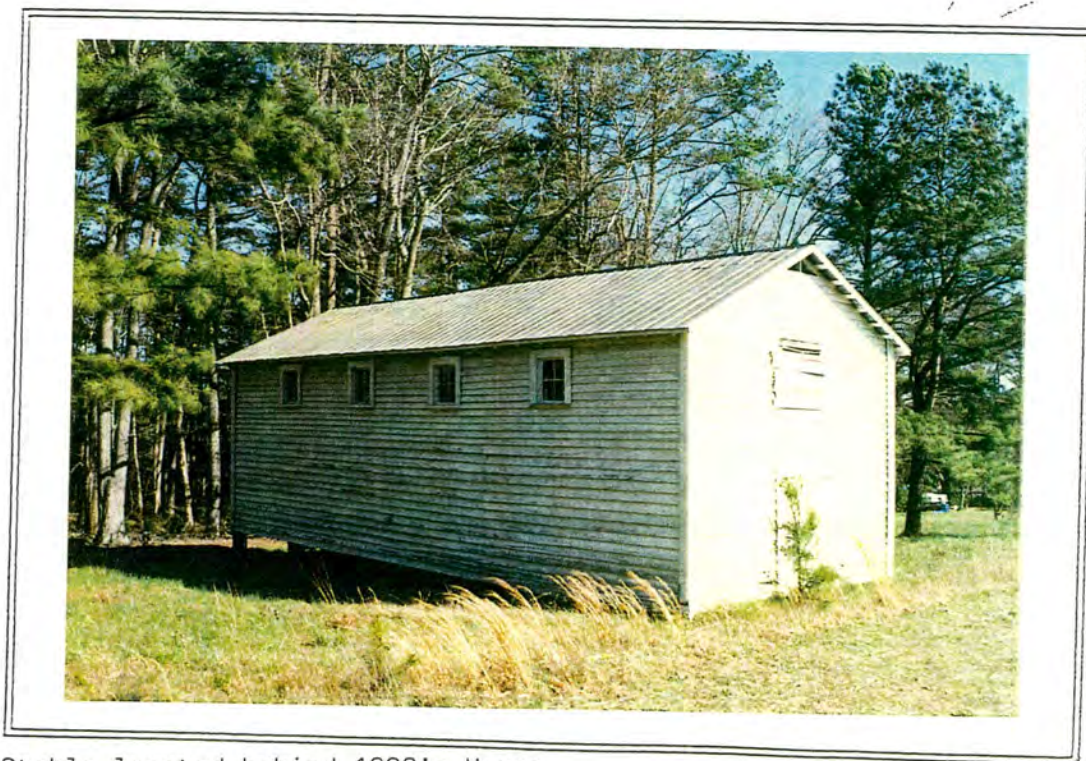
1930's House just south of Church



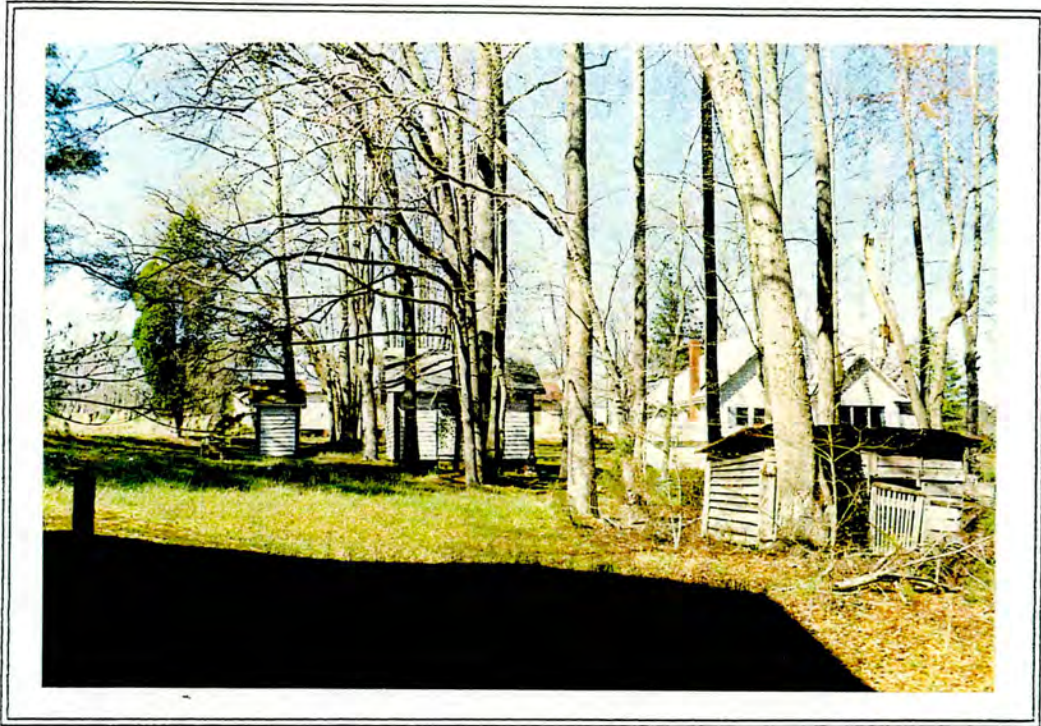
1930's House



Stable located behind 1930's House



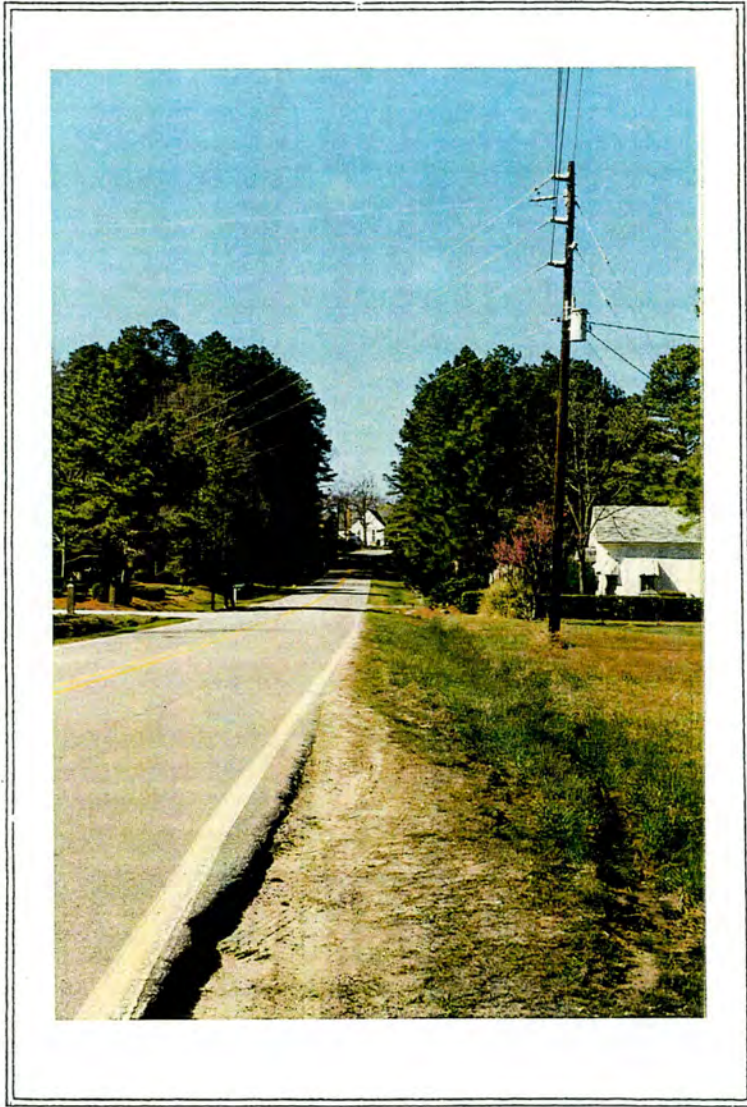
Stable located behind 1930's House



Additional Outbuildings located behind 1930's House



Green Level Community Store



Intersection of SR 1605 and SR 1600
View North toward Church

Properties Not Considered Eligible for the National Register

Pearson House
(WA 1039)

Location: South side of SR 1160, 1/2 mile east of SR 1163.

Previous Information: The Pearson House was constructed circa 1890. The frame structure is three bays wide and two bays deep with a one story rear ell. The rear ell was originally a detached kitchen. Brick chimneys are located at the gable ends. All sash is six-over-six. Sidelites are located on either side of the front door. Although access to the interior of the house was not available to the surveyor, the interior appears largely original and intact.

Present Condition: Since Kelly Lally's survey of Wake County, published in 1994, the Pearson family sold their land to a developer, who has constructed a subdivision, "Dogwood Ridge", on the former farm. The "handsome two-story gambrel-roofed barn, a log tobacco barn, and an outbuilding made of terra cotta tile" (Lally, p. 342) have all been destroyed. The house itself, currently located on a very small lot, was purchased by the Apex Historical Society and is currently being "restored". A facsimile of the original porch has been reconstructed utilizing stock, turned posts. Fixed, stock, aluminum shutters have been nailed beside the windows on the front elevation. The closest new house currently being constructed is located approximately 25 feet away. Landscaping designed to screen the new subdivision from the road begins three feet away from the newly constructed front porch. The interior remains largely intact.

Evaluation: The Pearson House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (Event). For an individual property to be considered eligible for significance in agriculture, its characteristics related to agricultural land uses and practices must have served or resulted from an important event, activity, or theme in agricultural development as recognized by the historic contexts of the area. The property must also have contributed to the area's economy, productivity, or identity as and agricultural community, and, through its historic landscape characteristics, the property must cogently reflect the period of time in which the important events took place (National Register Bulletin 30, page 13). The Pearson House, a former farm, does not retain its outbuildings or its cultivated fields.

The Pearson House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion B (Person) for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e.,

individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state or national historic context. For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with persons individually significant within a historic context; 2) is normally associated with a persons productive life, reflecting the time period when he or she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group. Instead, it must be shown that the person gained importance within his profession or group (National Register Bulletin 15, page 15). The Pearson House is not associated with the lives of persons significant in the history of Wake County.

The Pearson House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. As evidenced in Lally's book on the architecture of Wake County, this house type is the most common form of buildings over fifty years old. The building does not meet the requirements for eligibility under Criterion C.

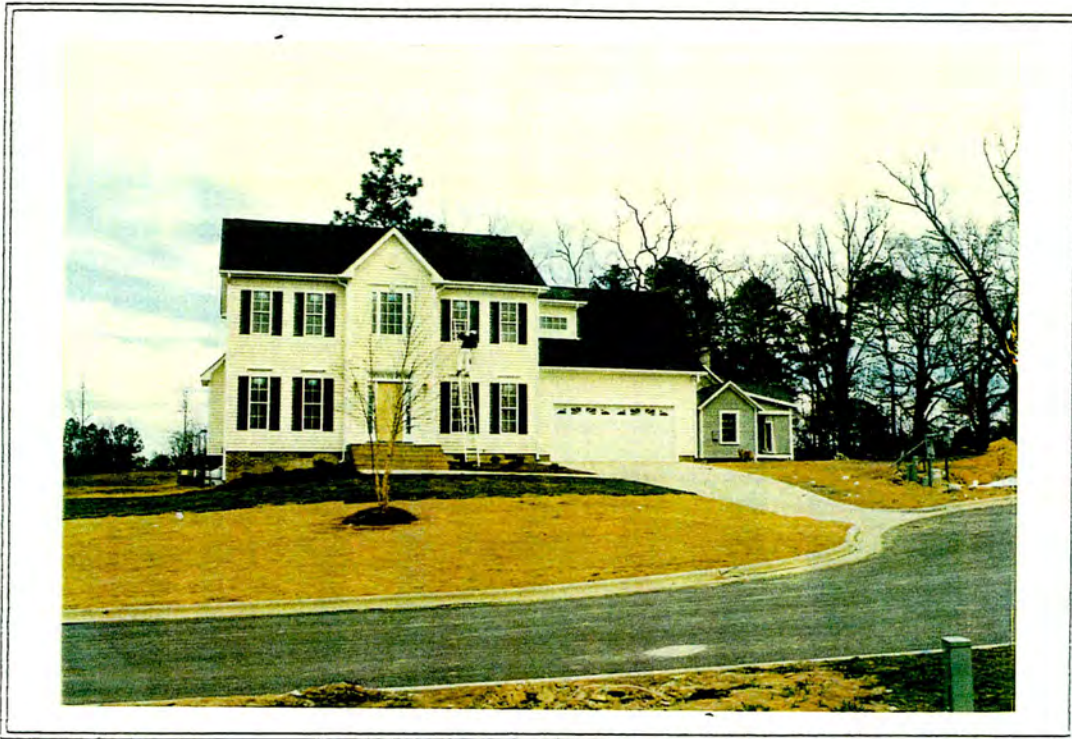
The Pearson House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D (Information Potential). For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important (National Register Bulletin 15, page 21). The architectural component of the Pearson House is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.



Pearson House



Pearson House



Pearson House from the rear.
(Center right)



Pearson House from street.